



Elder Voice Advocates enthusiastically supports the passage of HF 1019. The injustice of this antiquated Minnesota law must stop now.

Our vision is a future *society that values elders and vulnerable adults with abuse-free, respectful care*. Our mission is to *champion solutions that prevent abuse, neglect, and exploitation while promoting the highest standards of care for all vulnerable adults*. We strive to make this vision and mission shared by all.

This bill is a solution that is long overdue and will demonstrate that we are a society that truly values the lives of elders as much as we do all others. Why is an elders' pain, suffering and even death from maltreatment different from that of any other human being? Yet our current law makes it clear, that their lives are not valued.

The epidemic of abuse, neglect and exploitation of elders has escalated over the last couple of decades. The complaints of abuse and neglect skyrocketed from 4,000 cases in 2010 to 22,500 in 2018, the last year we have data. The vulnerability of these citizens is often acute and without this change in law there is no accountability for maltreatment and no incentive to stop harmful practices.

Many of our loved ones have suffered amputated limbs from untreated wounds; sexual assaults from staff; stolen pain medication resulting in excruciating pain; left lying in their urine and feces for days; developed pressure sores from lying for hours without being moved; remained lying on the floor for an entire night after a fall; their bodies laid in their rooms for many days because nobody did the wellness check; and the list goes on.

Many of our families have struggled to get quality and compassionate care in too many long-term care facilities. The harm in many cases is so horrific that the suffering of these loved ones is inhumane. The families often suffer trauma years after the death of their loved ones. Yet the perpetrators are free of any accountability and often continue the maltreatment of many other elder victims.

It is time to stop protecting the wrongdoing of those who grievously harm our elders while the perpetrator continues their maltreatment. Thank you for your support.